Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know whether the contractor has begun work for the closing.

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan : It is not being done by contract. It is being done by the department.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : The question is "Has any tender been invited for closing it for Chingom 1121".

The answer is, "Yes."

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan : A tender was invited. The contractor tendered Rs. 23,000. The original cost was between Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000. It went up to Rs. 7,250 in 1117 and came down to Rs. 5,800 in 1118 and again went up to Rs. 9,000 in 1119, Rs. 16,450 in 1120 and it is now Rs. 22,021. After I received this and rejected the tender and issued orders to the Department, a gentleman came and said that he would accept a lower figure for 1121. He later said that his figure was to be Rs. 1,000 less than the quarter figure for 1121. This was obviously excessive. So, I have ordered that it should be done departmentally. I have sounded a note of warning in the other House and I would repeat it here. I have been told at Mavelikara that a certain kind of victimisation is going on in the locality; and that certain big men in the locality are demanding blackmail so that the bar may be kept untouched. I gave them a note of warning and said that the Police would be on the spot and if there was any attempt at breaching the bund they would be strictly dealth with. I should ask the co-operation of the members of this house to enable me to eliminate this unsocial activity.

Chala Bazaar road.

179 ***Mr. K. S. Joseph** (*Mavelikara and Tiruvalla* cum *Pathanamthitta*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a scheme for widening the Chala Bazaar road.

(*b*) if so, are the shop owners to be given adequate compensation for the damage they are likely to suffer ; and

(*c*) how do they propose to dispose of the shop sites after completion of the road ?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) No definite schemes have been formulated yet.

Mr. K. S. Joseph : With reference to part (c), may I know what is the alternative scheme that the Government have in mind?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan : It is still under consideration. We have not reached a final decision yet.

180. ***Mr. Paul A. Thaliath** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the Government of Cochin have passed an Act prohibiting the recruitment and taking of labourers by any, for work outside the State ?

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